

CLASSIFICATION

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

25X1A

25X1

COUNTRY Czechoslovakia REPORT NO. [redacted]TOPIC 1. Border Guard Brigade in Cheb
2. Border Guard Training Battalion in KrasovEVALUATION [redacted]DATE OF CONTENT prior to 10 January 1951DATE OBTAINED [redacted] 25X1A DATE PREPARED 11 April 1961REFERENCES [redacted]PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) 1 - Standard Manpower QuestionnaireREMARKS [redacted]~~REFERENCE COPY~~

DO NOT CIRCULATE

25X1X

Border Guard Brigade in Cheb.

1. Prior to 10 January 1951, the PS (border guard) brigade in Cheb (N 51/P 37) was subordinate to Unit [redacted] in Prague, commanded by SM Major Duda, (fnu), which in turn, was subordinate to SM General Pavel, (fnu), of the Ministry of the Interior. The brigade headquarters was located in the former cloister in Cheb. (1)
2. SM Major Okroschlik, (fnu), was the commanding officer of the brigade. Staff Captain Muzik, (fnu), was administrative officer and SM Lieutenants Trojacek, (fnu), and Kotora, (fnu), commanding officers of the two PS battalions stationed in Cheb. (2)
3. The headquarters of the PS battalion with which the deserter served was located in the former financial administration building in Cheb. The 1st Co of the battalion was stationed in Svaty Eriz (N 51/P 37); the 2nd Co in Slapany (N 51/P 36), and the 3rd Co in Stary Hroznavov (Kirschberg) (N 51/P 36), the 4th Co in Pytina (Albenrouth) (N 51/P 36), and the 5th Co in Kozly (Gosel) (N 51/P 36).
4. The 1st Co numbered 40 soldiers who were armed with models 48-A and 48-B submachine guns and two model 26 light machine guns. The company commander repeatedly emphasized that the companies were still below authorized strength. The border sector of the 1st Co was about 4 km wide and was controlled by one or two patrols who occasionally had trained dogs with them. In addition, 10 sentinels were assigned to border duty.
5. Another PS battalion was located in the former Hegerhaus Inn, Cheb. One of the battalion's companies was stationed in Svata Anna, about 3 km west of Cheb, and another in Horni Kunreuth (N 51/P 27).
6. A unit referred to as reserve battalion was located in the former Myslivna Inn at the western exit of Cheb. The battalion numbered 500 soldiers, most of them recruits, drivers, and rear-echelon and medical personnel. The equipment consisted of German model 98-K rifles and Czech models 48-A and 48-B submachine guns. The battalion was assigned to guard and control duty, and in case of alarm, was to stand by for employment

25X1

CLASSIFICATION

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

25X1

Document No. 1No Change in Class. ☐☐ DeclassifiedClass. Changed To: SECRETDate: 11 AUG 1978

25X1

CONFIDENTIAL

on the border. Upon the completion of training, the recruits were to be attached to the companies on border duty. (3)

7. The brigade had no armored vehicles, but it was said that some were to be issued. Two airplanes at the Cheb airfield had been at the disposal of the brigade since 26 December 1950.
8. SIB members who were assigned to border duty prior to the activation of PS brigades were employed at headquarters and in orderly rooms.

Border Guard Training Battalion in Krnov.

9. Prior to 30 March 1951, the border guard training battalion in Krnov (P 51/J 11) was the IV battalion of an infantry regiment commanded by Colonel Ressler, (fnu), and located in Opava (P 50/O 29). Major Duda, (fnu), of Unit [redacted] in Prague inspected the training. (4)
10. Staff Captain Frantisek Kotrba was the commanding officer of the battalion and Captain Staroba, (fnu), deputy commander. Captain Facionek, (fnu), was the commanding officer of the 4th Co. Most of the soldiers were Czechs.
11. The battalion was organized into 4 companies of about 120 soldiers each. Each company had German model 98-M rifles, 10 Czech model 26 light machine guns, and 4 German heavy machine guns.
12. The soldiers received basic infantry training and SIB training. They were to be assigned to border duty after completion of their training.

Comments.

- (1) The information confirms a previous report on the PS brigade in Cheb. Press dispatches stated that General Pavel, (fnu), was arrested in connection with the Clementis crisis. Major Duda, (fnu), is confirmed as chief of Border Guard Command [redacted].
- (2) Prior to October 1950, Major Okrouhlik, (fnu), was the commanding officer of the 46th Inf Bn which, following its transfer from As, was allegedly deactivated. However, it is doubted that Major Okrouhlik should command the PS brigade, since a Major Hlavac, (fnu), was previously reported to be the commanding officer.
- (3) The unit referred to as a reserve battalion is actually the brigade headquarters, which includes a headquarters platoon, a technical company, a motor transport platoon, a supply platoon, a training company and a stand-by company. [redacted]
- (4) Probably the 34th Inf Bn, which was last reported as a battalion in October 1940. No information has been received on the subordination of SIB units to Czechoslovakian Army units.

CONFIDENTIAL